

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02718 130458Z
ACTION DOE-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15
STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 A-01 NSCE-00 /122 W
-----115144 130507Z /21

R 120637Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2963
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, ECON, ENRG, TECH, EFIN, SENV, BEXP, ETRD, AS, ID
SUBJ: ENERGY INITIATIVES FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

REF: (A) JAKARTA 4498, (B) STATE 79788, (C) STATE 70307,
(D) CANBERRA 2399

1. AMBASSADOR MASTERS' SUGGESTION (REFTEL A), CONCERNING
ASEAN SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT ON NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY DESIGNED
ESPECIALLY TO INCLUDE NEEDS OF RURAL AREAS IS AN EXCELLENT
IDEA. IDEED, INTEREST OF AUSTRALIAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON NATURAL RESOURCES ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING
(CANBERRA 2399) FOR LONG RANGE SOLAR RESEARCH IN REMOTE
AREAS IS INDICATIVE OF STRONG INTEREST IN APPLICATIONS IN THIS
FIELD ALONE IN RURAL AREAS.

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2. CONCERNING JAKARTA'S COMMENTS THAT GOA MAY BE INTERESTED
IN AMBASSADOR MASTERS' SUGGESTION WE BELIEVE THIS MAY WELL
BE A POSSIBILITY THROUGH THE GOA'S ASEAN AID PROGRAM THROUGH
SECONDING GOA SPECIALISTS TO THE ORGANIZATION.

3. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE STRICTURES IN DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS
CONCERNING DISCUSSIONS OF THE ENERGY R&D COOPERATION SUBJECT

WITH GOA OFFICIALS AT THIS JUNCTURE, EMBASSY HAS MADE NO EFFORT TO DISCUSS JAKARTA'S SUGGESTIONS WITH GOA (REFTEL 1) AT THIS TIME. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT IT DESIRES EMBASSY AT THIS JUNCTURE TO FEEL OUT THE GOA ON THE SUBJECT OF ENERGY INITIATIVES IN GENERAL AND THE JAKARTA SUGGESTION AT THIS TIME.

4. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT REGIONAL MEETING (CHOGRM) AGREED TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON ENERGY. IT IS OF COURSE TOO EARLY TO BE ABLE TO EVALUATE HOW THIS BODY IWLL FUNCTION, HOW MUCH FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES AUSTRALIA WILL BE DEVOTING TO IT AND HOW THIS COULD AFFECT AUSTRALIA'S WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A SCHEME SUCH AS THAT OULINED BY AMBASSADOR MASTERS. IT APPEARS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE TO TAKE ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE NEW CHOGRM BODY INTO CONSIDERATION AT SUCH TIME AS IT MIGHT BE ASKED TO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO ANOTHER ORGANIZATION. ALSTON

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